

REMARKS

The status of the claims is as follows. Claims 1-21 are patented. Claims 22-114 were added by way of a Preliminary Amendment filed on September 16, 1998. By the present Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, claims 22, 51, 68, and 96 are sought to be amended and claims 27, 52, 73, and 97 are sought to be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-21 are patented, claims 22-26, 28-51, 53-72, 74-96, and 98-114 are pending, and claims 27, 52, 73, and 97 are canceled.

The present Supplemental Preliminary Amendment incorporates the features of canceled claims 27, 52, 73, and 97 into claims 22, 51, 68, and 96, respectively. Specifically, claims 22, 51, 68, and 96 are amended to indicate that the tissue is disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the member. As set forth in the Preliminary Amendment, the foregoing subject matter is supported by at least column 2, lines 43-56; column 3, lines 35-61; column 4, lines 51-65; column 5, lines 1-7; column 6, line 11 through column 7, line 8; column 8, line 13 through column 10, line 36; and column 11, line 57 through column 12, line 1 of the original U.S. Patent No. 5,556,414 (the "'414 patent").

In view of the foregoing, Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner's consideration, and examination of this reissue application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account Number 50-0310. If a fee is

required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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